

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	USSR/Iran	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Soviet Military, Air, and Naval Activity Along the Iranian Border	DATE DISTR.	23 April 1953
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Soviet Frontier Activity

1. The Soviets are digging new furrows along the foot of the mountains 12 kilometers from the Reza Baghi, Zardali, and Lezhi border posts.<sup>1</sup> Behind the Shandan mountains, they are constructing a pillbox type fortification which will extend from Asudaliq to Lezhi. Antiaircraft installations have also been constructed on the Shandan range. Three guard houses have been built between Zardali and Reza Baghi. A new fortification which is equipped with two gun placements has been constructed near the former customhouse bridge, approximately ten meters west of the Caspian Sea. Additional pillbox type fortifications are under construction by the Soviets along the slopes of the Lezhi, Baghchelar (N38-27, E48-35), and Reza Baghi elevations. These installations are equipped with several 75 mm guns. The Soviets are digging approximately 38 trenches, both concrete and dirt, for a distance of 24 kilometers between the mouth of the Astara Chay river and the Qermezi Post.
2. New Soviet frontier guards between 18 and 21 years of age arrived in the Astara area in the early part of July. A newly arrived MVD officer from Astara Chay instructs in the technique of installing rockets and in rocket maintenance. The guards are equipped with short, five-round rifles, which resemble the 1934-38 models. Their automatic guns are similar to Iranian frontier guards' guns.

Personnel

3. Col. SIBOLSKIY, the Soviet border commander of the Lenkoran area, appears to be one of the most influential and well trained army officers of the Irano-Soviet frontier. During World War II he participated in military operations on the Belorussian and Rostov battle fronts, and wears several decorations from these

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campaigns. Col. SIBOLSKIY is Jewish in origin, and he is presently in Baku where his daughter is receiving medical treatment.

4. Lt. Col. ROMANKO replaced Capt. MIKHAILOVICH as commander of the Kalaputi border post (N38-48, E48-25) in October 1951. ROMANKO, who is tall with dark complexion, is harsh in his manners and conduct. ROMANKO was involved in the Anbaran incident in which a Soviet soldier by the name of SOBOTIN was killed and another named LENINOV was captured. ROMANKO rescued LENINOV from Iranian custody by force. As a result of this incident, ROMANKO was summoned to Military Court in Lenkoran. He returned to his post on 5 June 1952. During his absence Capt. BULKIN was in charge of the post.
5. Maj. PANASOK is the Soviet commander of the Kaluz frontier post. He plans political activities for Arshaq and Pillerud villages.
6. Col. GHISOV has been commander of the Parshib frontier post since 1944.
7. The following Soviet officers who arrived in the frontier area recently are from the political cadre (MVD) of the Soviet army. Two of them have been assigned to the Alachai frontier post (N38-28, E48-46), and two to the Kalaputi Post. They are Lt. PETROV, Lt. ASADOV, Lt. VASILEVSKIY, and Lt. MAKARIKO.

#### Soviet Military, Air, and Naval Activity

8. The 16th Regiment of Soviet Military District 2038 was replaced at Lenkoran by a new unit on 29 June 1952.<sup>2</sup> These new soldiers, between 19 and 21 years old, are inexperienced and are presently engaged in target practice and military exercises.
9. A Soviet aircraft, [REDACTED] flew over Iranian soil from the direction of Soviet Astara. The plane proceeded towards Bandar Pahlavi and then changed its course and flew towards the Caspian. The plane had a white fuselage and red tail.
10. Two new naval schools have recently been established in Salianski /Saliani/ Garrison. High school graduates are admitted to these schools for a three-year course, following which they have a 2-year practical operational course. Upon graduation, they join the Soviet fleet in the Caspian or Baltic Seas.
11. Seven warships and two barges equipped with anti-aircraft guns approach Iranian waters daily in formation.

#### Road & Rail Activity

12. A new road to facilitate transportation in the mountainous area between Lenkoran and Baghchelar (N38-27, E48-35) is under construction. This road will extend through the Isa Seyfi forest.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment: It is not known whether this is the same furrow mentioned in [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

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